

Claims

- [c1] 1. A method of modifying a target document comprising:
accessing a target document, a metadata element, and a rendering instruction,
wherein the target document comprises a target element;
locating the target element to which the metadata element applies; and
transforming the metadata element into a rendered element by using the
rendering instruction.
- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising calculating screen coordinates
relative to the target document where the rendered element is to be displayed.
- [c3] 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising inserting the rendered element
into the target document at the screen coordinates.
- [c4] 4. The method of claim 1, wherein locating further comprises matching a term
within the metadata element with a corresponding term within the rendering
instruction.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the rendered element is displayed instead of
the target element.
- [c6] 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the rendered element includes a row or
column of icons.
- [c7] 7. The method of claim 5, wherein:
the target element includes numerical information;
the rendered element includes a depiction of the numerical information; and
the depiction includes a representation of the numerical information in at least
two dimensions.
- [c8] 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising inserting the rendered element
into the target document.
- [c9] 9. The method of claim 8, wherein:
when after inserting, the rendered element overlays the target element; and
the target element can be seen at least partially through the rendered element.

- [c10] 10. The method of claim 1, wherein a tag within the metadata element includes a locating information to locate the target element within the target document.
- [c11] 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the metadata element includes an identifier for the target document.
- [c12] 12. A data processing system readable medium having code embodied therein, the code including instructions executable by a data processing system, wherein the instructions are configured to cause the data processing system to perform a method of communicating with a user, the method comprising:
accessing a target document, a metadata element, and a rendering instruction, wherein the target document comprises a target element;
locating the target element to which the metadata element applies; and
transforming the metadata element into a rendered element by using the rendering instruction.
- [c13] 13. The data processing system medium of claim 12, wherein the method further comprises calculating screen coordinates relative to the target document where the rendered element is to be displayed.
- [c14] 14. The data processing system medium of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises inserting the rendered element into the target document at the screen coordinates.
- [c15] 15. The data processing system medium of claim 12, wherein locating further comprises matching a term within the metadata element with a corresponding term within the rendering instruction.
- [c16] 16. The data processing system medium of claim 12, wherein the rendered element is displayed instead of the target element.
- [c17] 17. The data processing system medium of claim 16, wherein the rendered element includes a row or column of icons.
- [c18] 18. The data processing system medium of claim 16, wherein:
the target element includes numerical information;

the rendered element includes a depiction of the numerical information; and
the depiction includes a representation of the numerical information in at least
two dimensions.

[c19] 19. The data processing system medium of claim 12, wherein the method
further comprises inserting the rendered element into the target document.

[c20] 20. The data processing system medium of claim 19, wherein:
when after inserting, the rendered element overlays the target element; and
the target element can be seen at least partially through the rendered element.

[c21] 21. The data processing system medium of claim 12, wherein a tag within the
metadata element includes a locating information to locate the target element
within the target document.

[c22] 22. The data processing system medium of claim 12, wherein the metadata
element includes an identifier for the target document.

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